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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII JOHN A. BURNS SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE TO ESTABLISH A NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, obesity and chronic diseases, such as diabetes and  
2 heart disease, disproportionately affect Native Hawaiians; and  
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4 WHEREAS, in order to address the health of indigenous  
5 people, Hawaii's policies, programs, and services must focus on  
6 economic and social conditions that influence group differences  
7 in health status; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the Department of Native Hawaiian Health, as part  
10 of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
11 recently completed a two-year study entitled "Assessment and  
12 Priorities for Health and Well-Being in Native Hawaiians and  
13 Other Pacific Peoples"; and  
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15 WHEREAS, these findings were presented to a joint  
16 legislative committee on September 23, 2013, along with  
17 recommendations and priorities to improve the health and  
18 well-being of the State's indigenous and Pacific Islander  
19 populations; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the study also detailed successful programs that  
22 have led to reduced risk factors for diabetes, heart disease,  
23 and stroke, and these programs include weight and blood pressure  
24 management; and  
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26 WHEREAS, it is necessary to address the findings and  
27 recommendations of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health's  
28 study by creating a task force to formulate policies and  
29 procedures to eliminate the disproportionate impact of the  
30 social determinants of health and chronic disease on all  
31 individuals, with particular focus on Native Hawaiians and other  
32 Pacific peoples; now, therefore,  
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014,  
36 that the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine



1 is requested to establish a Native Hawaiian Health Task Force to  
2 be administratively attached to the University of Hawaii John A.  
3 Burns School of Medicine; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is urged to  
6 include:

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- 8 (1) The Chair of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health
- 9 of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, or the
- 10 Chair's designee;
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- 12 (2) The Director of Health, or the Director's designee;
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- 14 (3) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
- 15 Affairs, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;
- 16 and
- 17
- 18 (4) Up to twenty additional task force members with
- 19 demonstrated interest in and backgrounds beneficial to
- 20 assisting the functions of the task force, including
- 21 members with extensive knowledge, expertise, or
- 22 experience in areas such as Native Hawaiian health or
- 23 health care, and Native Hawaiian health care
- 24 consumers, to be appointed by the Chair of the
- 25 Department of Native Hawaiian Health of the John A.
- 26 Burns School of Medicine; and
- 27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Native Hawaiian Health Task  
29 Force is requested to:

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- 31 (1) Create data sharing policies between state agencies to
- 32 improve access for Native Hawaiian and other Pacific
- 33 peoples;
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- 35 (2) Propose cost-effective improvements to the
- 36 environments where Native Hawaiians and other Pacific
- 37 peoples live, learn, work, and play;
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- 39 (3) Propose legislation to address social determinants of
- 40 health in Hawaii;
- 41
- 42 (4) Raise awareness and propose programs to advance health
- 43 equity;
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- 1 (5) Propose programs and legislative action that will
- 2 address barriers to access to health care;
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- 4 (6) Guide the use of existing collaborations, systems, and
- 5 partnerships to leverage resources and maximize
- 6 outcomes;
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- 8 (7) Propose activities that will support community
- 9 organizations promoting their own health; and
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- 11 (8) Propose initiatives that will increase preventive
- 12 services available in Native Hawaiian communities; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Native Hawaiian Health Task  
15 Force is requested to report its findings and recommendations,  
16 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
17 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
18 of 2016; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Chief  
22 Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Chair  
23 of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health of the University of  
24 Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.

